

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected. Claim 1 is herein amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by commonly assigned EP 879 853. The Examiner asserts that EP 879 853 discloses thermoplastic resin compositions that substantially correspond to those of the present claims.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, because not all of the claimed limitations appear to be taught by the cited reference.

Applicants note that the present claims recite propylene/ethylene block copolymer having a melt flow rate (MFR) of 100 to 200 g/10min., and its propylene homopolymer component having an MFR of 210 to 400 g/10min. and its copolymer portion containing propylene at 65 to 85% by weight. On the other hand, the cited reference more broadly recites a block copolymer having an MFR of 20 to 200 g/10min., which is worse in moldability and does not teach or fairly suggest the particularly claimed homopolymer component (polypropylene block) of component (A) having an MFR of 210 to 400 g/10min., nor a copolymer portion containing propylene at 65 to 85% by weight, which is excellent in moldability. Applicants emphasize that the MFR is of the homopolymer component of component (A), and the MFR is not of component (A) itself.

Because not all of the claimed limitations are taught by the cited reference, Applicants submit that the rejection is improper, and should be withdrawn.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,063


Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A polypropylene-based resin composition comprising the following components (A) to (D), characterized by its excellent moldability and other properties:

50 to 70% by weight component (A): propylene/ethylene block copolymer having a melt flow rate (MFR) of 100 to 200 g/10min., its propylene homopolymer component having an MFR of 210 to 400 g/10min. and isotactic pentad fraction of 0.98 or more, and its copolymer portion containing propylene at 65 to 85% by weight; ~~50 to 70% by weight~~;

10 to 25% by weight component (B): ethylene/octene and/or ethylene/butene random copolymer, containing the comonomers at 28% by weight or more for the copolymerization and having an MFR of 0.5 to 20 g/10min.; ~~10 to 25% by weight~~

4 to 9% by weight component (C): styrene-based hydrogenated block copolymer rubber having the following structure A-B or A-B-A wherein the segment A is a polystyrene structure and segment B is an ethylene/butene or ethylene/propylene structure, containing the segment A of polystyrene structure at 1 to 25% by weight; ~~4 to 9% by weight A-B, or A-B-A wherein, the segment A is a polystyrene structure and segment B is an ethylene/butene or ethylene/propylene structure~~; and

16 to 24% by weight component (D): talc, having an average particle size of 10 mm or less, determined by the laser-aided diffractometry; ~~16 to 24% by weight~~.